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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Diesel Thermal Power Plants Operations and Maintenance

OVERVIEW

In 2003, USAID committed to providing emergency diesel-generated power to the key southern cities of Kandahar (Kandahar Province), Lashkar Gah (Hilmand Province), and Qalat (Zabul Province). The World Bank provided emergency diesel generators to eight provincial cities, including Aybak (Samangan Province), Musa Qala (Hilmand Province), and Tirin Kot (Uruzgan Province). Providing diesel power to these areas was a short-term way to provide immediate sources of electrical power while longer-term and more sustainable lower-cost solutions were being developed.

A combination of factors, including security challenges and resource and capacity constraints have extended the length of time that the diesel power stations have remained in use. The stations require continued operations and maintenance support. The changing reality over the past four years makes it clear that the temporary diesel power stations must be converted to permanent installations. USAID provides technical support and is developing the capacity of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (Afghanistan National Electricity Corporation – DABS) to manage these power plants.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Provide support for five diesel power plants in southern Afghanistan and one plant in northern Afghanistan: Kandahar, Lashkar Gah, Qalat, Tirin Kot, Musa Qala, and Aybak. This support includes operations and maintenance, technical assistance, and commodity and material support.
- Develop the capacity of personnel at the diesel generation stations to ensure continued operation of the power plants.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Operated and maintained six diesel power plants, providing power that feeds into the local distribution system and ultimately benefits numerous families, small businesses, and industrial enterprises
- Conducted extensive repair and refit work of Gensets and alternators in Kandahar province in spite of serious security incidents
- Continued implementation of operations and maintenance work in Lashkar Gah, Qalat, and Tirin Kot, allowing these power plants to service approximately 94,000 homes in southern Afghanistan each month